

What's new

Health Care Tops Issues Voters in Early Primary States Want 2008 Presidential Candidates to Address

Democratic and Republican voters from early primary states identified health care as the top issue they want to hear about from presidential candidates during the 2008 election campaign, a poll recently released found. Health care eclipses other important national priorities such as Iraq, illegal immigration, the economy and terrorism/security issues, according to voters from Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

Health care costs and coverage were the two top specific health care issues that voters from across the political spectrum want candidates to tackle, found the survey, which was conducted by national polling firms Public Opinion Strategies and Greenberg, Quinlan, Rosner on behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA).

Specifically, nearly nine out of 10 voters polled favored a set of changes to the health system that would include the following:

- Providing health care coverage for everyone, with everyone; that is government, individuals, and employers contributing to the cost;
- Making changes to make health care more efficient and more affordable;
- Using more information technology to increase patient safety, lower costs, and reduce paperwork so that doctors and nurses can spend more time with patients;
- Ensuring people have access to preventive care and wellness programs, so that people lead healthier lives; and
- Improving the quality of care so that every patient receives the right care at the right time.

"The top priority for voters this election campaign is the future of healthcare in America," Pollack noted. To help spur discussion, the AHA will call on health leaders to ask the candidates questions about their plans to help advance health care in America. A brochure entitled "Ask the Candidates" will be sent to hospital members and posted on the AHA's Web site at <http://www.aha.org/>.



New Children's Book Series, Written by South Florida Mother, Addresses Cystic Fibrosis with Endearing Childhood Love Story

Kyle's First Playdate, the follow-up story to *Kyle's First Crush*, continues the heartwarming story of a

little boy's crush on a beautiful girl who melts his heart. The book, written by children's book author and Weston resident Leah Orr, is second in a series of books that will follow this sweet young couple through their school days and playdates.

According to Orr, the beautiful girl featured in the story, Ashley Elizabeth, is not a fictional character – it's Orr's daughter, who was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) prior to birth. "I wanted to share the joy and importance of young love and great friendship, while at the same time briefly address a disease that affects many children as well as adults all over the world," said Orr, a mother of three. "I am donating all the proceeds to the CF Foundation and will continue to write one book every year until a cure is found!"

Kyle's First Playdate follows the young boy's first playdate with Ashley Elizabeth, his very special girl friend. The book chronicles their fun-filled Saturday adventure together. The beauty of this story as well as Orr's original tale, *Kyle's First Crush*, is that they are told through Kyle's eyes, a sweet, young romantic.

Kyle's First Playdate is available through AuthorHouse and amazon.com. More information can be found at www.kyles-firstplaydate.com.

